



HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY: Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **AUGUST 17.** Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers. **INFO:** Call (219) 972-5083.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2019

HIGHLAND FIRST OF TWO POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO JOIN SMART911 PROGRAM



RAVE REPLACES NIXLE

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky wants residents to register for the newest emergency alert system that is light years ahead of what it is replacing.

The RAVE notification system is part of Lake County's new Smart911 program.

In addition to emergency alerts, the new mobile platform allows users to tailor features to meet their needs and improve safety when minutes matter.

"Information residents provide help first responders during an emergency," Hojnicky said. "During a house fire, firefighters, police and paramedics will know how many residents – even pets – they should be hunting for and what kind of special needs those residents require."

"This system has everything we had hoped for – and more." 🐾

HOW TO REGISTER

Smart911 is a free service that allows you to share valuable information with 9-1-1 during an emergency. You can also receive important Highland alerts so you can prepare for any situation. Your profile can include:

- Emergency alerts
- Household information
- Medical History
- Pets & service animals
- Emergency contacts
- Vulnerable needs

Download the app or sign up online at Smart911.com.

Questions? Call (219) 838-3184.

HIGHLAND CHALLENGES MEIJER

Town attempts to recoup \$1.9 million it forfeited in property taxes last year

The Town Council is taking its case to the state later this year to attempt to recoup some of the \$1.9 million it forfeited in property taxes last year.

The loss followed a downstate property tax appeal by Meijer in Clark County lodged more than a decade ago.

Meijer lawyers successfully argued assessments were excessive for tax years 2008-2016. The result: a ripple felt across Indiana communities when they had to pay back eight years of excess payments to the grocer/retailer in a single property tax cycle.

Town Council President Steve Wagner said Highland will be making its case to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance requesting a one-time assessment to local property owners to recoup at least some of the lost funds to maintain current levels of service, particularly when it comes to public safety. 🐾



CONVERSATION. KNOWLEDGE. POWER.

Join Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin for this engaging series that examines local tax dollars and how their spent. **Full story, page 2.**

KEEPING RESIDENTS SAFE

Highland and North Township are partnering on the purchase of a surveillance camera on Ridge Road near Wicker Memorial Park.

The camera will be the second for Highland: The first is located along north Kennedy Avenue.

The surveillance cameras can yield vital clues when a child goes missing or a vehicle is stolen.

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky told the Town Council the first camera has already helped solve two outstanding cases by allowing police to review video footage detailing specific points in time.

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

If you see something that doesn't look right, say something by reporting it at (219) 838-3184.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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The Gazebo Express is produced by:
The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

LEARN HOW PROPERTY TAXES, CAPS IMPACT RESIDENTS, PUBLIC TREASURY

Just two weeks after the first session of Treasury Talks, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin is hoping for a great turnout at the next discussion about important changes in the way government is funded beginning in 2020.

During this session, Griffin will delve into the expected impacts of the state-mandated Circuit Breaker and lead a discussion about the new set of rules that caps how much individual and business property taxes can increase.

The goal: Break down government-speak into easy-to-understand facts and examples.

"We have been planning for this for some time – when property tax collections decline significantly and the demand for government services remains the same or increases," Griffin said. "This is an important discussion about modifications that could significantly impact town government. We hope residents will spend an hour with us to find out what they need to know as we move forward." 🐼



CONVERSATION. KNOWLEDGE. POWER.

Each Treasury Talks session begins with a brief overview followed by discussion with residents. Additional Treasury Talks will be added based on resident feedback.

At the July 31 session, residents learned how the town budgets and organizes the finances that pay for public services.

Here's what coming up:

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Community Center, 2450 Lincoln St.

AUGUST 14: Learn about property taxes – how they're raised and spent – as well as property tax caps and how they impact residents and the public treasury.

INFO: For more information, call the Clerk-Treasurer's office at (219) 838-1080.

FROM OFFICE CLERKS TO CENSUS TAKERS, THOUSANDS OF JOBS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Local census recruiters are becoming a regular feature at local summer events as the team works to fill 3,380 openings for residents who want to work for the 2020 Census.

By the end of July, 662 had qualified for census jobs, leaving 2,718 positions open for those who want to help the region accurately count residents. Wages begin at \$12.50 per hour for office jobs; \$14 per hour plus reimbursement for use of a personal vehicle for field jobs, where you can work from home in your neighborhood. A Lake County office is scheduled to open in Merrillville in September.

There are three phases to the census, the first of which – address verification – is underway.

Next up will be survey distribution in April.

That will be followed by census form assistance.

In addition to snail mail, residents have two options this time around that take advantage of technology we use every day:

- » Reply using a smart phone
- » Reply online



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Join the 2020 Census Team and become a part of history! The U.S. Census Bureau has several job openings in Lake County.

From managers and supervisors to census takers and office clerks, there are job openings for all skill levels, including: Area Census Office Manager, Census Field Manager, Administration Manager, IT Manager, Recruiting Assistant, Field Supervisor, Office Operations Supervisor, census takers and office clerks.

Pay ranges from \$12 to \$17.50 an hour.

INFO: For more information or to apply, visit 2020Census.gov/jobs.

Highland Business Spotlight



NEW SHOP SERVING UP MADE-FROM-SCRATCH ITALIAN ICE, EVERY DAY!

Decades after Highland's beloved Custard Shop closed its doors, the Foreit family and a dozen enthusiastic employees have breathed new life into the cottage located a stone's throw from Main Square Park.

Just eight months since Dr. David and Emily Foreit set their sights on creating that uniquely Highland experience for locals longing for walk-up frozen treats, The Counter opened July 1 to a heat wave and rave reviews.

"The response from Highland has been fantastic," Emily said. "We are thrilled that our soft serve and Italian ice have been so well received, and our root beer and cold brew floats have been unexpected hits!"

For David, a physician who owns Focused Pain Relief in downtown Highland, The Counter evokes a special kind of nostalgia.

"I think it's terrific that this little spot has come full-circle," he said. "It's great to see kids and families enjoying it the way I remember." 🍦

THE COUNTER ICE CREAM & ITALIAN ICE

2936 HIGHWAY AVENUE

OPEN NOON – 9 PM DAILY

Specializing in delicious soft serve and refreshing, made-from-scratch Italian ices daily.

Follow and like us on Facebook, Instagram @countericecream!



GARDEN RIPE FOR PICKING

Cucumbers, peppers and knob onions were harvested at the Highland Community Garden right after Fourth of July. Thanks to an abundance of rain and hot weather, a bumper crop of tomatoes should be ready this month.

Garden Coordinator Renee Reinhart couldn't be happier.

"It's exciting watching this garden grow," she said. "I am proud of what we have accomplished and grateful to everyone who donated plants and time to this effort. We are already making plans to do it again next year."

INFO: Volunteers are needed to weed the garden and harvest produce through October. Please check in on Facebook at Highland Main Street #Grow Highland for times and dates.

MEET-AND-GREET COOKOUT

Stop by Suburban Bible Church for a summer cookout and meet the new pastor and his family. Before coming to Highland, Pastor Adam VanGorp worked with congregations



out west in Washington and Colorado. The married father of two boys enjoys reading, writing, camping, hiking, and pretty much anything outdoors.

Learn more about his background, including his 8-year stint as an Arabic linguist in the United States Army, at this family-friendly event.

WHEN: 1 p.m. Sunday, **AUGUST 25**

WHERE: Suburban Bible Church, 3010 41st Street

INFO: Call Senior Pastor Secretary Donna Goubeaux at (219) 924-6240.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park for the acoustical entertainment from 5 to 6 p.m. and live bands from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Upcoming entertainment includes:

AUG. 17 Carl Leach
Yes Say - R&B-Dance-Motown covers

AUG. 24: Dan Lemmon
IPA: International Polka Band

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Register now for Parks and Recreation's fall softball league. It's a 14-game round-robin season. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Highland Parks and Recreation reserves the right to place teams in the proper division. Cash awards will be given in each division!

SEASON: Runs **SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 17**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TEAM FEE: \$560 for a minimum of 14 games. Preliminary roster and nonrefundable deposit of \$280 due **AUGUST 16** or when division fills. Balance due before second game or your team forfeits. No exceptions.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

WIGGLES & GIGGLES

This class is designed for 1½- to 3-year-old toddlers who have not met many children. You and your child will enjoy age appropriate activities, stories and crafts. Children will also participate in unstructured playtime. Each parent assists with his/her child's activities.

WHEN: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays,
AUGUST 19 – DECEMBER 9

(off Sept. 2 and Oct. 28)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$87 residents / \$96 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

KIDS YOGA

Little yogis – ages 5-14 – will learn simple breathing techniques, yoga games, partner poses, songs/chants, crafts and relaxation that encourage self-esteem, concentration, body awareness and creativity. Please bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat.

WHEN: 5 to 5:55 p.m. Thursdays, **AUGUST 8 – SEPTEMBER 19**. Off September 5.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$30 residents / \$33 nonresidents

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$9 residents / \$10 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

YOUTH DANCE

We have various levels of ballet, jazz, musical theater as well as pre-dance classes for boys and girls ages 3-17. The semester begins **AUGUST 24** and culminates in a dance showcase on **DECEMBER 6**. Classes are offered on Saturdays, Mondays, and Tuesdays.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 for detailed class information and pricing.

The Highland Main Street Bureau and
Highland Redevelopment Commission present ...

LAST CALL FOR ... Summer

The sultriest days of summer will be the setting for Highland's 2nd annual – Last Call for Summer festival. A last hurrah before school starts, the event features original local music, food and a beer garden operated by Highland's Beer Geeks. New this year: children's activities and a craft tent!

SATURDAY | AUGUST 10 | 3-8 PM

BREWERIES

- 3 Floyds Brewing
- Maplewood Brewery
- Goose Island
- Anheuser-Busch

RESTAURANTS

- Jose's Family Restaurant
- Boss Man Tacos
- Nikki Rae's Sandwiches (food truck)

ENTERTAINMENT

- 3 p.m. - Chris Peters
- 4 p.m. - Anunnaki
- 5 p.m. - Matthew Daley
- 6 p.m. - Fragile Soul
- 7 p.m. - CXPITAL

Check Highland Redevelopment Commission's Facebook page or #2019LastCall4Summer for updates!

